

volunteers began the work in the cemetery in August 2019, cutting down invasive trees and overgrowth, restoring and cleaning of headstones, repairing the drainage system, and fixing the perimeter retaining wall. After four years of hard work, they have nearly completed this extensive project.

The Mare Island Naval Cemetery, the oldest naval cemetery on the West Coast, is home to over 860 soldiers, marines, and sailors who served in conflicts such as the War of 1812 and World War I. It is also home to dozens of their relatives who are interred there. The work of the 801st Engineer Construction Company has allowed us to restore this cemetery back to a sacred final resting place for our brave men and women in uniform and their families.

Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that the 801st Engineer Construction Company has played a vital role in ensuring the Mare Island Naval Cemetery is preserved for generations to come. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor the company and its soldiers here today.

TRIBUTE TO RON CORTOPASSI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SPACE LAUNCH DELTA 30 VANDENBERG SPACE FORCE BASE

**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 12, 2022*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ron Cortopassi, Executive Director of Space Launch Delta 30, Vandenberg Space Force Base. Ron has served diligently for 39 years, beginning his career at Vandenberg Air Force Base in 1983 as a Flight Safety Analyst, Safety Office, Western Space Missile Center, 30th Space Wing. In 1990, he was promoted to Chief, Operations Safety Analysis. Then in 1992, Ron was chosen to be Chief, Flight Analysis Office. In 2000, Ron was once again promoted to Chief Engineer. His career culminated in being chosen the Executive Director of the 30th Space Wing, Vandenberg Air Force Base, which later was renamed as Space Launch Delta 30, Vandenberg Space Force Base. In his role as Executive Director, he worked directly with Space Launch Delta 30's Commander and provided continuity of senior management, offered technical advice and counsel for policy and direction for Vandenberg Space Force Base. Additionally, he oversaw the health and wellness of the civilian component of Vandenberg Space Force Base and ensured that Space Launch Delta 30 functions as a world-class range and test facility. Ron also served as the Executive Secretary for the Safe Training System Flight Termination Criteria Evaluation Committee, developer of the Safe Training System Range Safety Display and lead flight safety analyst for the 30th Space Wing's first Titan IV launch. Furthermore, Ron wrote collision avoidance software, terminal area hazard and caution area determination software, ship-hit probability software, and general mapping software for the use by the flight safety analyst. Ron is a product of Central Coast education, by graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aeronautical Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California.

Madam Speaker, Ron Cortopassi leaves Vandenberg Space Force Base in a strong place, well prepared to continue its mission for missile testing, range operations, and provide installation infrastructure necessary to place satellites into polar orbit. I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing immense gratitude to Ron Cortopassi for his extraordinary leadership on the occasion of his retirement.

HONORING TANNER HRENCHIR

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 12, 2022*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Tanner Hrenchir. Tanner recently competed in the U.S. Special Olympics placing 1st in the deadlift competition, 2nd in the squat competition, 3rd in the bench, and 2nd overall.

Tanner has been engaged in sports for essentially his entire life, competing in flag football, basketball, and power lifting. He is a dedicated athlete, having clinched a spot in the national games on 3 different occasions. Tanner hasn't let Down syndrome prevent him from following his passions and succeeding. Tanner's parents, and everyone else, are blessed to have such a fine young man in their lives. His story is an inspiration of will and determination that sets an incredibly high bar for those who have the privilege of knowing him.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in thanking Tanner for his accomplishments and dedication that proudly represent the people of the Sixth Congressional District. I am proud to represent Tanner Hrenchir in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING VETERAN HENRY R. CASTRO

**HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 12, 2022*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in honor of World War II and Vietnam veteran, Mr. Henry R. Castro. A San Antonio native, Mr. Castro has dedicated his life to service, community, and country. Please join me in recognizing the story of this extraordinary American.

Henry R. Castro was born on April 26, 1927. The son of a butcher and grocer, Juan and Maria Castro, he grew up learning about hard work. On June 12, 1945, Mr. Castro enlisted into the United States Army and was assigned to the 78th Infantry Division, being deployed to Berlin, Germany. On November 29, 1946, Mr. Castro was honorably discharged as a Private First Class under HQ Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry. As Cold War tensions rose, Mr. Castro heard the call of duty and reenlisted into the U.S. Army on August 21, 1948, and shortly thereafter was deployed to Trieste, Italy. There, he was assigned to the T.R.U.S.T. troops in the Italian Alps tasked with defending Trieste against then Communist Yugoslavia. He was later honorably discharged on June 27, 1950.

In 1951, Mr. Castro was hired on at Kelly Air Force Base serving as a Civil Service Employee and later at Brooks Air Force Base. During his civil service tenure, Mr. Castro also served in the Air Force Reserves for more than 7 years under the 433rd Troop Carrier Wing. In the summer of 1967 due to his reserve status, he was recalled into active duty during the Vietnam War and during the North Korean's capture of the U.S.S. Pueblo. He remained on active duty until his retirement date of June 1, 1984. Mr. Castro retired as a U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant.

For his service in the armed forces in defense of our nation, Mr. Castro received the following: World War II Victory Medal and Ribbon, Overseas Service Bar, Army of Occupation Medal Germany, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with Four Devices, American Campaign Medal, European—African—Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Four Oak Leaf Cluster, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award with Three Devices, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent someone of such high caliber. On behalf of Texas' 20th Congressional District, I thank Mr. Castro for his commitment and patriotism. I also thank Mr. Castro for everything he has done in-service to our great Nation. May God bless him and his loved ones.

CELEBRATION OF LEXINGTON, MISSOURI'S BICENTENNIAL

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 12, 2022*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the bicentennial of Lexington, Missouri. For two hundred years, Lexington has stood as a proud, historic city filled with hardworking people who embody the American Dream. As the people of Lexington gather to celebrate their bicentennial, let us take a moment to reflect on the town's rich history.

Located on the Missouri River, Lexington was first platted in 1822. Founded by Gilead Rupe, the town was established from a river port and grew as a result of trade along the Big Muddy. Lexington was named after Lexington, Kentucky, as many of the city's early settlers ventured from the Bluegrass State. Lexington soon became the county seat of Lafayette County.

In 1861, the town found itself at the center of the Civil War, as the Show-Me State split its support between the Union and the Confederacy. Between September 19th and September 21st of that year, the town became engulfed in the First Battle of Lexington Missouri, colloquially titled the Battle of the Hemp Bales. As Blue and Gray forces clashed, the Lafayette County Courthouse was struck with a cannonball, where it remains lodged in the building's eastern-most column to this day. Another landmark from the battle, the Oliver Anderson House, served as a Union hospital for the remainder of the war.

Lexington's history goes beyond the Civil War. Migrants traveled through the town on